

NIS COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 61

21 March 1950

1. The following were present:

Dr. Apoleton  
Mr. Lydman  
Lt. Col. Kiel  
Dr. Debevoise  
Cdr. Howell  
Lt. Cdr. Nutt  
Lt. Col. Wade  
Mr. Strickland

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State  
State  
Army  
Army  
Navy  
Navy  
Air Force  
Air Force  
CIA (Acting Chairman)

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2. It was stated that there have been recently a number of instances of "unprofessional" level of treatment of subject matter in NIS contributions received in D/NIS. An instance cited as an example was Section 83 (Air Force) of [REDACTED]. This instance contained a large amount of exposition of the elementary principles of air force tactics and technique which overshadowed the intelligence material contained in the contribution. It was pointed out that the planners for whom this material was primarily written can be presumed to be qualified officers who would not need this explanation of basic professional subjects and that to include it would tend to detract from the prestige of the NIS in the eyes of its principal users.

3. Questions have arisen from time to time concerning the number of pictures which may be used per NIS section. The infeasibility of specifying any fixed numerical limits was pointed out. The use of pictures is to be encouraged, the only stipulation being that they be appropriate, helpful, and of reasonably good quality.

4. A report on the status of production as of 17 March 1950 was made. Among other things, the comment was made that, since sixteen (16) sections had been received in D/NIS as of that date and since thirty-two (32) sections were reported as being in Phase 5 (in process of being prepared for submission to D/NIS), the prospects for an increase in production this month over that of the last several months appears bright.

5. It was reported that a proposed revision of the outline and outline guide for Standard Instructions for Chapter VII (Scientific) is said to be nearly ready for distribution to the agencies.

6. Inquiry as to the status of revisions of Chapters II (Military Geography), III (Transportation and Telecommunications), and VI (Economic)

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revealed the following:

- Chapter II - Section 22 (Coasts and Landing Beaches) of the final draft is being retyped and will be sent out as an erratum.
- Chapter III - Conferences are being held concerning the comments of D/NIS on the second draft.
- Chapter VI - A conference of the Chapter VI Subcommittee will be held concerning the first draft on 28 March 1950.

7. It was reported that the long-awaited reply of the JIG to the memorandum of the DCI regarding JCS priorities and requirements has been sent out. Copies have been sent directly to the IAC Agencies. Discussion concerning the revision of the production schedule for FY 1950 and the formulation of that for FY 1951 brought out the following points:

a. Since the list of countries in the "high priority" category includes all of those so shown on the previous list, there will be no reason to discontinue because of priority any production now in process.

b. The revised schedule for FY 1950 should require a production rate of at least eight (8) NIS per year, if realistic, and should give priority to those NIS nearest completion.

c. The production originally scheduled for FY 1950, but which cannot be completed in FY 1950, should receive prior consideration in formulating the production schedule for FY 1951.

d. Both the revised schedule for FY 1950 and the new schedule for 1951 should tend, wherever feasible, toward "across the board" production; i.e., wherever feasible, material on the same countries should be scheduled for all chapters and supplements.

e. Agencies which have capabilities to produce more than the equivalent of eight (8) NIS per year should be encouraged to exploit these capabilities.

f. The FY 1951 production schedule will have the following new features:

- (1) Schedule for Supplement V (Petroleum). This will

not affect the capabilities of the IAC Agencies because the supplements will be produced by the MBPC.

(2) Schedule for the Special NIS on Marine Climate and Oceanography. This will affect the capabilities of IAC Agencies since it will be produced by agency components already producing NIS.

(3) Possible schedule for revision of NIS elements already published. This will affect the capabilities of IAC Agencies because revision will require the expenditure of considerable time and effort on the part of those agencies.

8. The general question of revisions was discussed. Two extreme decisions are possible:


a. To attempt no revisions until at least all of the high priority NIS are complete.

b. To attempt to keep published NIS absolutely up to date, even to the extent of issuing revisions of individual pages.

The first of these extremes would be dangerous because a number of years will probably elapse before all of the high priority NIS will be complete; and, in the meantime, much of the material in the published NIS might become so obsolete as to destroy confidence in the NIS. The second extreme would be unacceptable because it would too greatly obstruct getting ahead with the program as a whole and would present too complicated problems of dissemination and file maintenance. The Acting Chairman gave it as his opinion that a suitable compromise would be to prepare and publish revisions of whole sections when such revisions appear warranted. Members were requested to be prepared at the next meeting to present specific items of produced NIS which they consider to require revision at this time and to continue discussion of the whole subject of revision.

9. The next meeting was scheduled for 1000 hours, Tuesday, 28 March 1950, at CIA.

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Distribution:

NIS Committee (4)  
Mr. Earman (JIG)

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LO, D/NIS        ✓ D/NIS File